

Media Release

OPP Staff Sergeant Dean Croker Honoured With Excellence in Leadership Award

For Immediate Release: June 11, 2018

(Toronto, ON) – Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Staff Sergeant Dean Crocker is the winner of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police's (OACP) Excellence in Leadership award. The award will be presented at the OACP's 2018 Annual Meeting taking place June 10-13 in Huntsville, ON.

This new OACP award is presented in recognition of the accomplishments of a member of a police service in Ontario who consistently demonstrates outstanding engagement and achievement within their organization and their community in terms of leadership.

"Developing strong leaders in policing is critically important in our common mission to provide modern, accountable, and professional policing services across our Province." said OACP President Chief Bryan Larkin. "The OACP is proud of the outstanding work of Staff Sergeant Crocker. Being the first police officer to win this award is a great honour."

In 1992, Staff Sergeant Croker became a part of OPP's first Emergency Response Team (ERT), later joining Search and Rescue Operations (SAR). As a certified instructor, Staff Sergeant Croker frequently taught First Aid, Use of Force, and Firearms courses.

In 2006, Staff Sergeant Croker was transferred to the West OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit Team (TRU) as a Constable, later becoming an Assistant Team Leader before being promoted to Staff Sergeant as Unit Commander in 2016. During his 12 years on TRU, Staff Sergeant Croker has been involved in more than 1,400 successful high risk tactical operations, ensuring the safety of both his fellow officers and the public. His dedication as a TRU Team and Unit Trainer resulted in expanding his Team's tactical capacity while preparing the TRU Program for emerging terror incidents in Ontario.

Staff Sergeant Croker's knowledge and expertise allowed for his involvement in the creation of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Service's new program for Taser International's X2 system, a program which implemented a Ministry standard for all officers using the X2 in Ontario.

As President of the Ontario Tactical Advisory Body (OTAB), Staff Sergeant Croker launched a training initiative involving the RCMP Emergency Response Teams and the province's top Hostage Rescue Programs. The goal of this initiative was to develop unified tactics for hostage rescue and counter terror operations, an unprecedented initiative in Ontario. Staff Sergeant Dean Croker's unwavering leadership and dedication to training and the advancement of tactical policy and procedural responsive measures in Ontario exemplifies his commitment to safety of our citizens.

This annual award is made possible by the generous support of The Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.

The OACP's annual awards will be presented on June 12. For more information on all our award winners, please visit the OACP website at www.oacp.ca.



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